

State Conservation Commission

2010 Annual Report



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Streambank Restoration

Federal reservoirs provide critical water supply storage in several basins in Kansas. Studies have shown that sedimentation from eroding streambanks has been a major contributor to sediment deposits in the federal reservoirs which in turn negatively affects the reservoirs ability to store water. The State Conservation Commission continues to work with other state agencies and local Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) groups by providing funding and technical services to install streambank restoration projects in identified high priority watersheds. The SCC is also the technical service provider for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to administer Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) streambank restoration projects. The SCC also provides supplemental funding for EQIP projects. In the past five years 68 projects have been approved for EQIP funding of which 33 are complete. These projects are also concentrated in identified high priority watersheds throughout the state.



Neosho River-During Construction



Neosho River-Post Construction

WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Overview

The Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) provides financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve or protect water quality, and enhance water supplies. Major program objectives include: (1) reducing sedimentation, nutrient and pesticide runoff, and fecal coliform bacteria loading in targeted public water supply reservoirs, and (2) reducing soil erosion on cropland and grazing lands.

The WRCSP was authorized in 1979 by amending K.S.A 2-1915 and was first funded in 1980. The conservation district in each county, managed by 525 locally elected supervisors, administers the program at the local level. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) develops regulations, policy, and procedures to guide program implementation. The SCC and conservation districts are assisted in implementation of the program by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). All structures or practices cost-shared by the SCC through the WRCSP are required to be built to NRCS standards and specifications.



Drop Structure—Saline County

FY 2010 Achievements

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$2,435,803 for the program. The majority of these funds were directly allocated to conservation districts for local and state priorities. Water quality protection through reduction of soil erosion was the major focus of the program. Practices receiving the majority of funds included terraces, waterways, ponds, grass plantings, and pasture and rangeland management. Funds were also allocated to high priority Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds to reduce the level of nutrients, pesticides, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.



Spring Development—Jackson County

FY 2011 Activities

An amount of \$2,142,151 was available for allocation in FY 2011, which began on July 1, 2010. Appropriated funds are broken down into sub-categories and allocated to county conservation districts for program implementation. Sub-categories include:

- ⇒ District Needs Allocation - These funds generally address sedimentation, erosion, nutrient, pesticide, and bacteria loading; and water conservation within the county. The local conservation district determines eligibility and priorities.
- ⇒ Water Quality Allocation - Funds are directed to high priority watersheds for the restoration and protection of water quality. Only practices directly affecting water quality are eligible. Targeted watersheds include High Priority TMDL's in 11 of the 12 major river basins.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

A total of \$3,183,181 has been requested for cost-share implementation in FY 2012. Into FY 2012, the demands of reducing sedimentation above water supply reservoirs and TMDL's will continue to drive program goals and outcomes. Conservation districts will be encouraged to implement local programs that focus on sedimentation, fecal coliform bacteria, pesticides, and nutrient runoff. The SCC has been authorized to expend up to 6 percent of the WRCSP appropriation on technical assistance needs. These technical assistance funds will be used to support program implementation in FY 2012.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Overview

The Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP) is a voluntary program providing technical and financial assistance to implement non-point source pollution control measures for the protection and restoration of surface and ground water quality. The program was authorized via the Kansas Water Plan and K.S.A. 2-1915 by the 1989 Legislature. Conservation districts receive funding from the SCC in the form of financial assistance provided to landowners on a cost-share basis to implement a locally developed Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Management Plan. Conservation districts in high workload Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) management units receive funding for technical assistance. The funds are used to hire Soil Conservation Technicians, who provide technical assistance to landowners for the installation of Best Management Practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Funding partners include the NRCS, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



*Livestock Waste Lagoon—
McPherson County*

FY 2010 Achievements



The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$2,562,787 for the program. Water quality protection through reduction in bacteria in streams was the major focus

of the program. Practices receiving the majority of funds include upgrading failed onsite wastewater systems, livestock water supplies to address riparian area protection, pasture and rangeland management, and livestock waste management. Funds were also committed to high priority TMDL watersheds to reduce the level of nutrients, pesticides, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.

FY 2011 Activities

The 2010 Legislature appropriated \$2,278,435 for the program. Funds were available in the following categories:

- ⇒ Funds for Best Management Practices to address bacteria loading, nutrients and low dissolved oxygen in streams and sedimentation above federal public water supply reservoirs.
- ⇒ Funds for technical assistance to conservation districts in high workload NRCS management units for program implementation.
- ⇒ Funds for information and education to conservation districts. Funds were targeted to no-till education for no-till field days and registration costs for landowners that are first time attendees to the “No-till on the Plains” conference.



*Cross fencing –
Jackson County*

FY 2012 Planned Activities

An amount of \$3,254,907 has been requested for the NPSPCP in FY 2012. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) implementation funds will be targeted to practices to reduce sediment above public water supply reservoirs and practices to reduce bacteria in streams. The SCC will continue developing and promoting an implementation strategy to contribute to the primary TMDL program objective of restoring and maintaining the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies. Funding for technical assistance in high workload NRCS management units will continue through

KANSAS WATER QUALITY BUFFER INITIATIVE

Overview

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative, enacted by the 1998 Legislature by amending K.S.A. 2-1915, is an incentive program complementing the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). State incentives supplement federal incentives to encourage the establishment of riparian forest buffers and vegetative filter strips. The SCC will enter into 10-15 year contracts, subject to annual appropriation, to compensate landowners for acres enrolled in the Initiative. Supplemental payments offered under the Initiative will match 30-50 percent of the federal payment, based on the type of vegetation planted. The Initiative also provides property tax incentives for landowners statewide that enroll buffers adjacent to streams in the Program. The state buffer eligible area now includes all high priority TMDL and federal drinking water reservoir watersheds in the state.



Buffer Strip

FY 2010 Achievements

An amount of \$312,163 was appropriated for this program. The SCC entered into 108 contracts with landowners to install 583 acres of grass filter strips and riparian forest buffers. At the end of State Fiscal Year 2010, there were 1,969 contracts in place for a total of 12,500 acres of grass filter strips and riparian forest buffers. In addition, approximately \$275,000 was provided through a partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to 39 counties. This funding will allow districts to hire additional staff devoted to promoting buffers and applicable buffer programs.

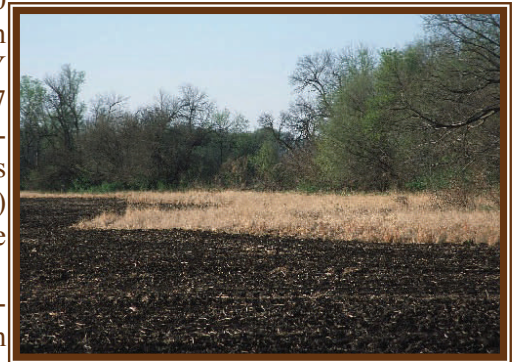


counties. This funding will allow districts to hire additional staff devoted to promoting buffers and applicable buffer programs.

FY 2011 Activities

The State Fiscal Year 2011 Buffer Initiative appropriated amount is \$290,081. The current appropriation includes funds for continued rental payments for FY 1999 – FY 2011 contracts, and sufficient funding to enroll approximately 2,500

new acres. In State FY 2011, 7 NRCS management units (23 counties) are participating in the partnership with the KDWP, the KDHE and the SCC to promote buffers and applicable buffer programs.



Buffer Strip

FY 2012 Planned Activities

In the FY 2012 budget request, the SCC has proposed a continuation of the Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative. An amount of \$293,070 was requested to continue enrollment in the current target areas and provide technical assistance for the program. Additional program funding will be needed in the future to continue enrolling new contracts in this program. The need for the state to begin addressing nutrient TMDL's will most likely necessitate further expansion of the state buffer eligible area in future years. Due to the popularity and the high amount of environmental benefits provided by these buffers, continuation of this program will benefit our state's water, wildlife, and economy for years to come.

RIPARIAN & WETLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP) was developed through the State Water Plan and authorized in 1989 by amending K.S.A 2-1915. The goal of the RWPP is to protect, enhance, and restore riparian areas, wetlands, and associated habitats by providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to landowners and the public in general. The major objective of the program is to design and install projects which demonstrate the effectiveness of riparian and wetland protection in terms of stream functions, water quality and wildlife benefits, and to increase the knowledge and awareness of landowners and the general public on the value and benefits of these natural areas.



Streambank Weir Construction

FY 2010 Achievements

The program appropriation was \$187,366. In FY 2010 Riparian and Wetland funds were used to supplement “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” stimulus funds in the Delaware River Watershed. The Glacial Hills RC & D is the project sponsor and these funds are being used for technical assistance work needed for the streambank stabilization projects on the Delaware River. FY 2010 funds were also used for technical assistance work on projects associated with the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” stimulus funds in the Neosho River Watershed.



Streambank Stabilization - Before

FY 2011 Activities

The program will continue to focus on providing information, training, and \$211,974 in financial assistance to better manage and protect riparian and wetland resources through FY 2011. Riparian area restoration, buffers, streambank stabilization, and wetlands play a significant role in addressing the TMDL’s. The majority of the program funds will be targeted to these high priority areas. Specifically funds will be used to supplement riparian area restoration as part of both the Delaware River and Neosho River watersheds in partnership with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. FY 2011 funds will be used to fund additional streambank restoration projects in the Neosho River Watershed. The RWPP again plans to supplement Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) streambank stabilization projects with program funds as needed and will also be used to match the State Revolving Loan proposals in the Delaware River and Neosho River Watersheds.



Streambank Stabilization - After

FY 2012 Planned Activities

In the FY 2012 budget request, the SCC has requested \$226,440. In FY 2012, the RWPP will continue to focus on state identified priority watershed restoration areas and will continue identifying, evaluating, and submitting potential stream restoration projects for EQIP funding and partnership with sponsoring agencies in the Delaware River and Neosho River Watersheds to continue streambank stabilization projects.

MINED LAND RECLAMATION PROGRAM

Overview

The Surface Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act (K.S.A. 49-601-624) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1994 to require reclamation and conservation of lands affected by surface mining. Since 1994, nearly 5,000 acres have been reclaimed and returned to productive property for cropland, recreation, hunting and fishing, housing development, wildlife habitat, and pasturelands. The Act requires producers who mine aggregate, industrial materials, and minerals, (except coal), be licensed to operate a mine. The Act also requires producers to register mining sites, file a reclamation plan for each site, submit a reclamation bond, and reclaim mining sites upon completion of mining operations.

FY 2010 Achievements

In FY 2010, 138 private producers and 60 counties and cities were licensed to conduct surface mining in the state. The operators have registered 486 private sites and 653 county sites for a total of 1,139 sites. Production of 32,951,494 tons of material was reported, 1,462 acres were affected, and 698 acres were reclaimed and released from bond in calendar year 2010. A total of 5,540 acres have been reclaimed since the program began in 1994.

The Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award was presented to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for reclaiming an abandoned limestone quarry located just north of Melvern Lake in Osage County. The property had been mined by several companies and was abandoned in 2002 by the owner. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks purchased the property in 2008, reclaimed the 42-acre disturbed area into a youth/mentor fishing and hunting area, and created a recreation area benefiting wildlife and providing the public with recreational opportunities.



hunting area, and created a recreation area benefiting wildlife and providing the public with recreational opportunities.

Cornejo Materials, Inc., reclaimed a 92-acre sand operation located in northwest Wichita. The 60 acre lake resulting from sand removal has been contoured into an irregular shape to allow for future housing development if the landowner chooses.



FY 2011 Activities

The Land Reclamation Program is fee funded by:

- ⇒ Issuing licenses to new producers and renewing active producer's licenses.
- ⇒ Collecting site registration fees for new and active sites: \$45 per affected acre and .003 cents per ton production.

Fees collected provide for administration and operational expenditures to carry out the activities required in K.S.A. 49-601 through 614:

- ⇒ Provide guidance and assistance in the development and completion of reclamation plans.
- ⇒ Enhance Reclamation Plans through digital GPS imagery, site inspections, and digital photography.
- ⇒ Conduct site inspections to assist operators with reclamation requirements, licensing, and closure.
- ⇒ Disseminate updated information for licenses, reclamation bonds, reclamation standards, administrative regulations and other related information.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

The Mined Land Reclamation Program staff will continue to assist producers with licensing, new site registration, reviewing reclamation plans, site expansion, reclamation process and requirements, reclamation bonds, final reclamation, and site closure. Geographic Positioning System (GPS) calculations will provide maps, area determination, and survey information to the operators and county planners. Staff will assist local planners, zoning officials, and county commissioners with mining and reclamation concerns.

MULTIPURPOSE SMALL LAKES PROGRAM

Overview

The objectives of the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program (MPSLP) are (1) to develop, (to its fullest potential) a site that is planned for flood control and water supply and or recreation and (2) to renovate existing lakes that have potential to provide long-term flood control, water supply and recreation benefits. This program was enacted in 1985 as a result of recommendations in the State Water Plan.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Multipurpose Small Lakes Program Act (K.S.A. 82a-1601 et seq.) as authorized by K.S.A. 2-1915. The program budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Fund.



HorseThief Reservoir

FY 2010 Achievements

The total state funding for the construction of Horse Thief Reservoir is \$4.5 million. This reservoir, located in and across Buckner Creek, is a tributary to the Pawnee River in Hodgeman County. It will be used for flood control and recreation. The estimated total cost of the project exceeded \$15 million. HorseThief will control runoff from 123,520 acres and will store up to 12,868 acre-feet of floodwater. Once full, the reservoir will provide 450 surface acres for water based recreation. The program was appropriated \$1,123,176 in FY 2009 as the final payment from the state for this project. The lake was sponsored by the Pawnee Watershed Joint District #81 and HorseThief Benefit District.



FY 2011 Activities

HorseThief construction was completed in October 2009. A ceremony celebrating the completion was held on October 17. Construction of surrounding park facilities continued. The park opened as scheduled for the summer of 2010. The campground opening is scheduled for late this fall. No new multipurpose applications on file with the SCC office.

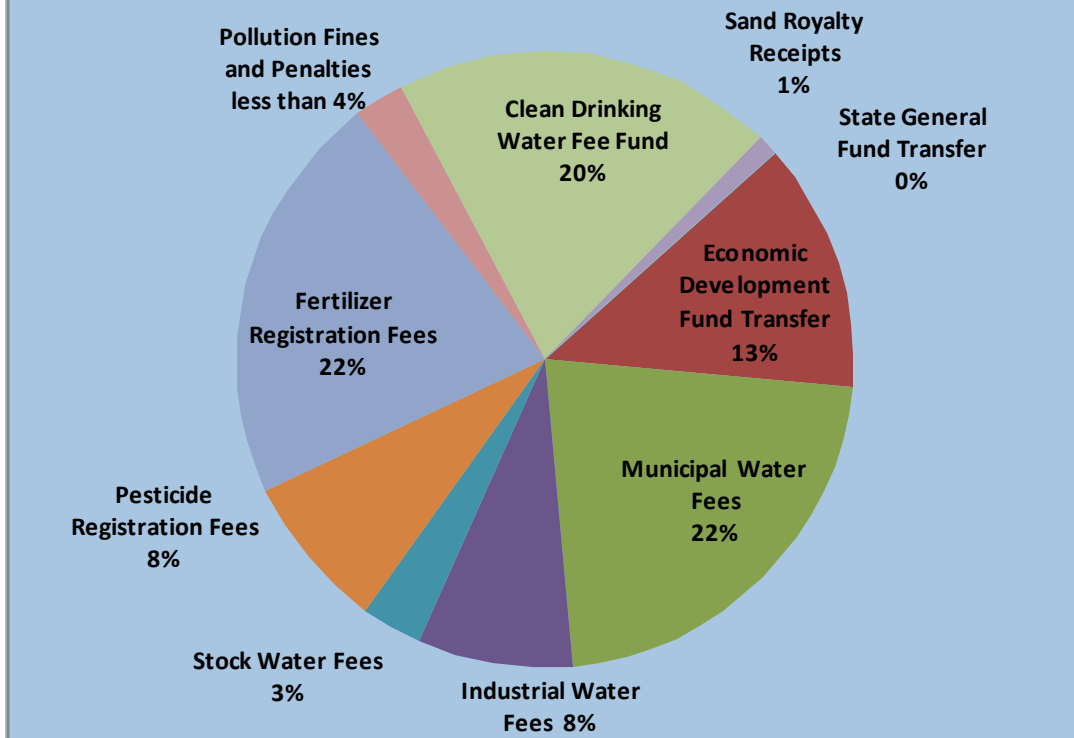


Recreational Facilities at HorseThief Reservoir

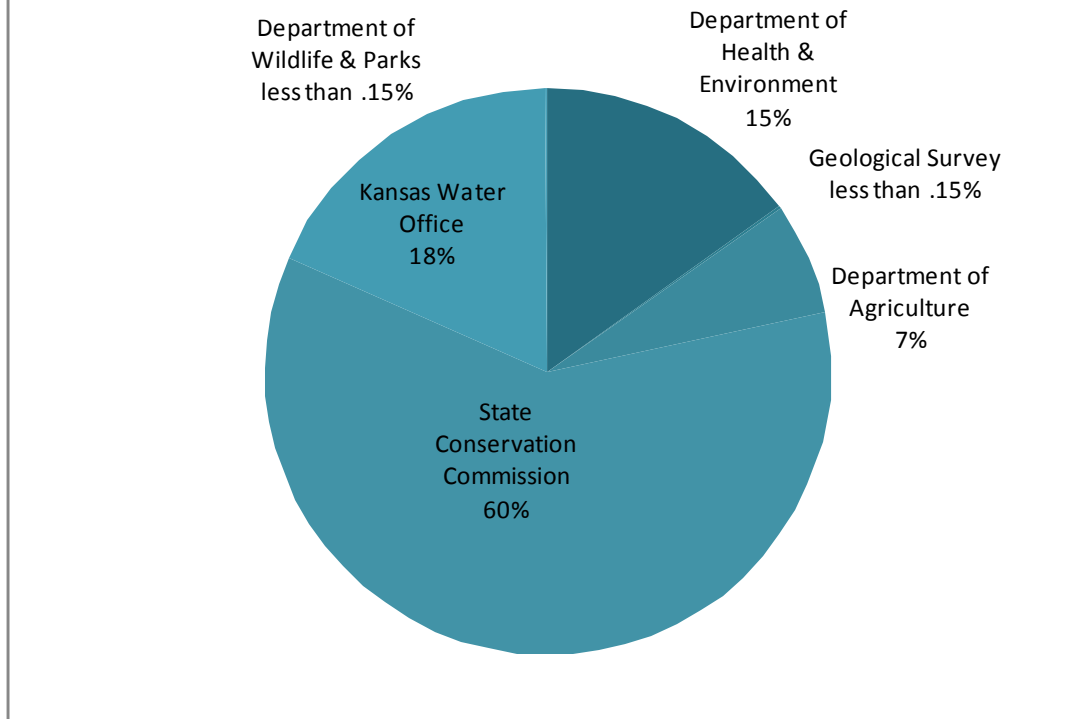
FY 2012 Planned Activities

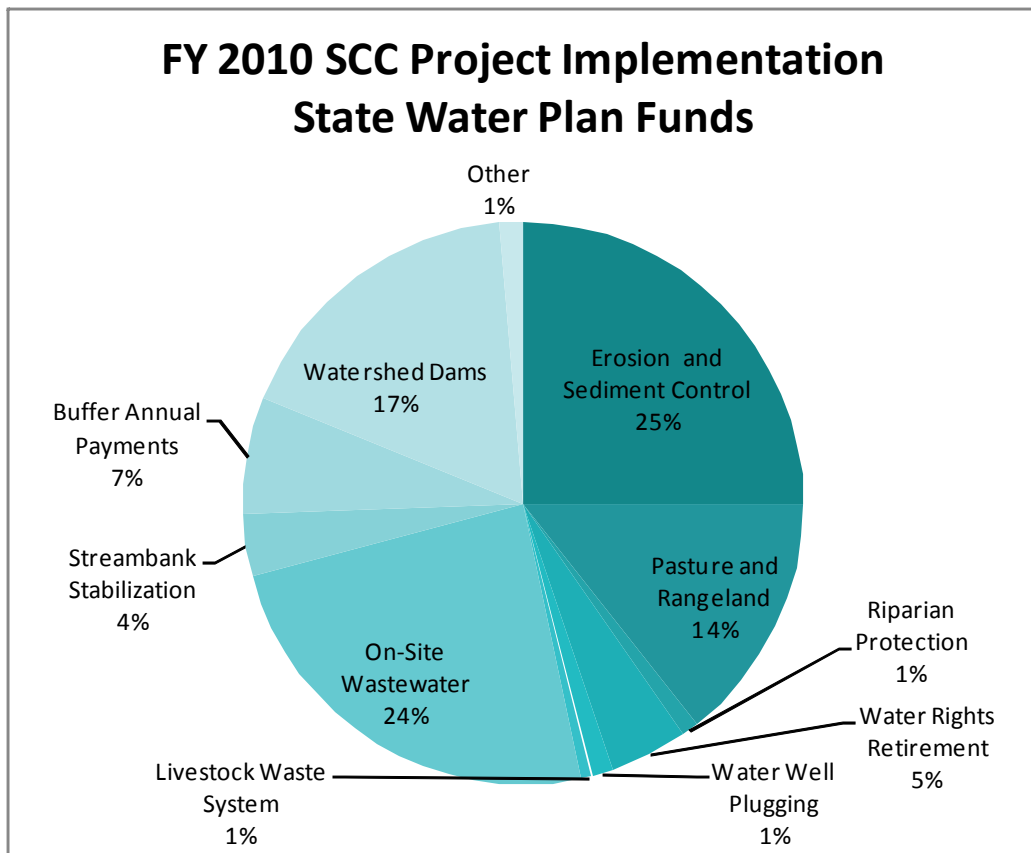
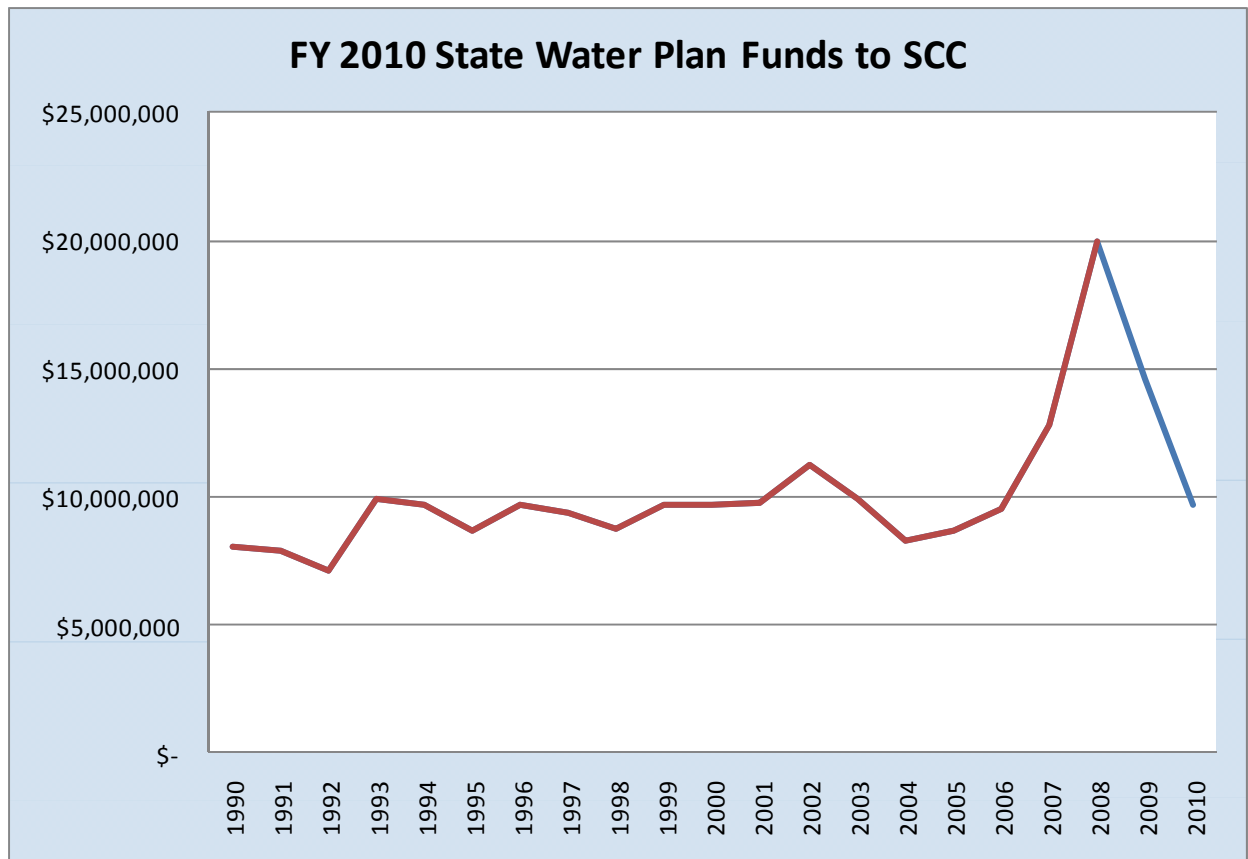
No activities planned for FY 2012 as the SCC has no applications for MPSLP cost-share assistance.

FY 2010 State Water Plan Fund Sources



FY 2010 State Water Plan Agency Distribution





WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Overview

The Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program (WTAP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) are the main components of SCC efforts to address Kansas Water Plan management initiatives through the voluntary, incentive-based retirements of privately held water rights. Only those which can result in significant water conservation benefits to the State's rivers, streams, and aquifers are selected for these grants.

WTAP was authorized as a five year pilot project in 2006 and expires in 2012. Its purpose is to reduce the "Historic Consumptive Water Use" in targeted, high priority areas. Compensation is determined by an available fixed, flat rate established annually by the SCC and a competitive bid price submitted by the owner. In WTAP, dryland farming is permitted after water right retirement. There are currently three WTAP project areas – Rattlesnake Creek, Prairie Dog Creek, and six high priority areas in Groundwater Management District #4 (GMD).



In 2007, the use of KS vs CO lawsuit damage award monies was authorized to permanently retire water rights in the Upper Arkansas River CREP, a 10 county project area in western Kansas. In this specialized version of the extremely popular CRP program, the landowner agrees to permanently retire water rights and plant a permanent cover (i.e. native grass) on the contracted land. In return for a 14-15 year rental rate from Farm Service Agency (FSA) and a sign-up incentive payment from SCC, the landowner agrees to permanently retire water rights and plant a permanent cover (i.e. native grass) on the contracted land. The CREP project is currently limited to \$2 M on 20,000 acres with a chance to extend to 40,000 acres.

FY 2010 Achievements

WTAP – Appropriation was \$81,010 with carry-over of \$59,795 (total \$140,805). WTAP was seriously impacted by FY 2009 - 2010 budget reductions. As a result, it was not possible to conduct an enrollment during FY 2010. To date, 15 water rights representing 1,586 acre-feet of Historic Consumptive Water Use have been retired at a total expenditure of \$2,158,199. Those retirements also represent 4,125 acre-feet of annual water use appropriation which has been reduced from the Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basin and NW KS GMD#4 High Priority Areas. No WTAP applications have been approved in the Prairie Dog Creek Basin yet.

CREP – Appropriation was \$1,113,584. As of June 30, 2010, a total of 58 CREP contracts on 10,766 acres have been approved. This has resulted in the permanent retirement of 22,162 acre-feet of annual water use appropriation from 93 wells. These 58 contracts represent a total of \$634,725 in state sign-up incentives matched by program payments from FSA in a total amount of approximately \$19,429,161 over the 14-15 year life of the CRP contracts. State cost-share has also paid out \$1,953 to complete well plugging on eight wells associated with these water rights. An additional 6 contracts on 743 acres are currently pending final approval of CRP contracts.

FY 2011 Activities

WTAP – Appropriation was \$565,248. An enrollment for \$500,000 of available retirement grants is being conducted. Local entities intend to utilize federal Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and EQIP dollars with competitive landowner bids in order to highly leverage the state dollar contribution. This should significantly enhance the program's efficiency to minimize the state's investment and extend state contributions to more potential applicants.

CREP – No appropriation (carryover only). Enrollment continues at the current project size of 20,000 acres. Two counties are at the individual county cap of 5,000 acres total enrollment with more landowners wishing to participate.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

WTAP – Continue pilot program implementation to achieve the program goals in each adopted target area. The budget request for FY 2012 is \$837,425; SCC will request that any unexpended FY 2011 funds be carried over to FY 2012 for a fourth enrollment period. WTAP is a five year pilot project which will end on June 30, 2012.

CREP – Continue to implement the program to achieve the program goals in the project area. SCC will request that any unexpended FY 2011 funds be carried over to FY 2012, and if possible, that the current Memorandum of Understanding with USDA be increased to 28,950 acres (within the current legislatively authorized limit of 40,000 acres).

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Overview

The Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP) provides financial assistance to organized watershed districts, drainage districts, or other special-purpose districts for the construction of detention dams and grade stabilization dams. Since inception in 1977, the Legislature has and continues to appropriate funds for cost-share assistance for the construction of new dams. In 2006, the Legislature recognized that time and weather take a toll on aging structures, and a new chapter for cost-share assistance for the rehabilitation (including inundation mapping) of existing flood control dams was started.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Watershed Dam Construction Program as authorized by K.S.A. 2-1915. The program budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Fund.



Timber Lake, Pottawatomie Creek

Flood control dams are needed in flood-prone areas as well as in drought stricken areas, to enhance the land for further productivity, to protect our natural resources and our infrastructures (roads and bridges), to provide water for livestock, and in many cases provide hydrants for rural fire departments.

FY 2010 Achievements

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$726,697 for this program.

Construction:

5 new sites and one supplement for \$464,262

Rehabilitation:

4 sites for \$226,892

Inundation Mapping:

None, funding shortage.



FY 2011 Activities

Appropriated funds are \$726,017 and are broken down into three sub-categories: construction, rehabilitation and inundation mapping.

There were four new applications and one supplement for state cost-share assistance approved in the

amount of \$409,493 for new construction of flood control structures.

The balance of \$316,524 will be dedicated to rehabilitations and inundation mapping ap-



Relined Pipe, Little-Walnut Hickory

plications for state cost-share assistance. Seven applications for rehabilitations and fifty applications for inundation mapping requesting over \$470,000 will be reviewed and prioritized for approval.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

A total of \$985,910 has been requested for cost-share implementation in FY 2012. The demands of reducing sedimentation above federal reservoir with water supply component will continue to drive program goals and outcomes. The funding will cover the three sub-categories mentioned above. Watershed Districts are encouraged to apply for cost-share assistance for new construction or rehabilitation and inundation mapping of existing flood control structures. The SCC will target \$585,910 of the requested 2012 appropriation to new construction of flood control dams and \$400,000 for rehabilitation and inundation mapping of existing flood control structures statewide. The SCC will continue with more rehabilitation of existing flood abatement structures to bring them to safety and performance standards and to achieve and/or extend their intended purposes. The WDCP's strong emphasis is on operation and maintenance.

WATER SUPPLY RESTORATION PROGRAM

Overview

The 2007 Legislature amended K.S.A. 82a-2101 and authorized the SCC to administer financial assistance to public water supply sponsors to restore water supply systems. This program is a voluntary, incentive-based water program designed to assist eligible sponsors to protect and restore public water supply systems where appropriate watershed restoration and protection are planned or already in place. The program budget is financed from the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund through the State Water Plan Fund.



Dredge at Mission Lake, City of Horton

FY 2010 Achievements

The FY 2010 appropriation was \$0.00.

The Pilot Project: Mission Lake

Scope: is to restore/dredge up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of water supply storage capacity

- CDF construction completed in October 2009.
- Groundbreaking celebrated on October 7, 2009.
- Dredge started 2nd week of October 2009.
- Dredging was completed by October 2010.

The Washington County Rural Water District No.1:

The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) revealed that the renovation of the Big Blue River Low Head Dam is not feasible. The legislature authorized SCC to fund the installation of an alternative public water supply for the sponsor The August City Lake Dam. The Augusta City Lake Dam rehabilitation was selected as third project for the Water Supply Restoration Program. Initial meetings between SCC, KWO, Division of Water Resources, City of Augusta and its engineering firm were held. The Watershed Management Plan was drafted and submitted to SCC for review and consent.

FY 2011 Activities

The FY 2011 appropriation is \$653,673.

- Complete the Pilot Project: Mission Lake.
- Pursue the installation of an alternative water supply for the Washington County Rural Water District No. 1.
- Enter into contract with the City of Augusta to repair the August City Lake Dam and start repair construction.



Confined Disposal Facility (CDF)

FY 2012 Planned Activities

The FY 2012 request is for \$892,227. The SCC will continue to administer and monitor the progress of the Washington County Rural Water District No.1 and the August City Lake Dam repair projects. The SCC will need to supplement the August City Lake Dam repair funding. The six Letters of Interest in the queue will be updated by the sponsors and ranked for funding.

AID TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM

Overview

State Aid to Conservation Districts, also known as Matching Funds, provides financial assistance to Kansas Conservation Districts. The K.S.A. 2-1907c authorizes the state to match up to \$25,000 per district of the annual amount allocated to conservation districts by the board of county commissioners. This match provides an incentive for the county commission to double county funding up to the state maximum amount. These funds assist the 105 county conservation districts to effectively deliver local, state, and federal natural resource programs as prescribed under the Conservation District Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq.). Financial assistance enables conservation districts to:



Dickinson County Conservation District was one of five districts receiving the 2009 Governors Conservation District Service Award

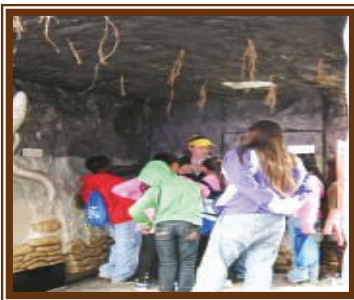
- ⇒ Hire administrative and technical staff.
- ⇒ Acquire office supplies and equipment.
- ⇒ Coordinate various conservation programs.
- ⇒ Implement state financial assistance programs at the local level.
- ⇒ Carry out information and education campaigns promoting conservation.
- ⇒ Provide clerical assistance to NRCS.

A local five-member board, known as district supervisors, governs each conservation district. District supervisors are elected public officials who serve without pay. The 525 district supervisors donate nearly 50,000 hours per year establishing local priorities, setting policy, and administering programs to conserve natural resources and protect water qual-

FY 2010 Achievements

Funds appropriated to the 105 conservation districts totaled \$2,266,905. This amount was one percent less than the qualifying amount due to state budget reductions.

A total of 66 conservation districts received the maximum level of financial assistance. Districts received \$2,973,551 from counties.



The Soil Tunnel Trailer is available for use throughout Kansas. This unique educational tool was spearheaded by the Miami County Conservation District

FY 2011 Activities

The program has been appropriated \$2,113,763 for FY 2011. This amount is one percent less than the qualifying amount due to state budget reductions. Based on conservation district input and budget information, districts receiving additional funds were able to purchase field equipment to rent, update office equipment, expand youth and adult educational programs, and pay for administrative expenses. Several conservation districts are no longer co-located with the NRCS and must pay expenses previously provided by the NRCS. This funding has been vital for these conservation districts to maintain a presence in the county.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

For FY 2012, \$2,311,483 is requested for the purpose of providing state financial assistance to conservation districts. Sixty-one conservation districts will receive the \$25,000 maximum amount from the state with county commissions contributing \$2,967,112. Financial assistance from this request will be distributed in July 2011 to each conservation district who has submitted to the SCC a certification of actual county funds provided to the district and a satisfactory audit of accounts, receipts, and disbursements.

BENEFIT AREA PROGRAM

Overview

The Benefit Area Program, authorized by K.S.A. 82a-1702 in 1963, was transferred from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) to the SCC by the 1986 Legislature. The program provides a method for public corporations, namely watershed districts, to be reimbursed for specific expenses when more than 20 percent of the benefits of a flood control structure are outside the taxing entities boundary.

The program was repealed by the 1995 Legislature but re-established by the 1996 Legislature. Only two known entities are eligible for the program: the Upper Black Vermillion Watershed District and the Wet Walnut Watershed District.

FY 2010 Achievements

In FY 2010, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2011 Activities

In FY 2011, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

In FY 2012, no activity is anticipated.

WATERSHED PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Overview

The 1958 Legislature amended K.S.A. 2-1904(d)(6) which authorizes the SCC to cooperate with watershed districts and other special purpose districts to secure federal funds for the P.L. 566 Small Watershed Program. Funds were appropriated from FY 1959 through 1980 to assist districts in the development of watershed protection plans which were a prerequisite to receiving federal watershed dam construction funding. Planning assistance funds were phased out by the 1980 Legislature in favor of state funds for watershed construction. The 1987 Legislature appropriated funds to reinstate the watershed planning program. Since 1990, the SCC's planning assistance efforts have been considered a sub-program of the Watershed Dam Construction Program.

In addition to providing planning assistance for the federal construction program, the SCC has also assisted districts in the study of watershed dam impacts on threatened and endangered species and the promotion of non-structural watershed protection practices. Most recently, watershed planning funds have been used to assist a newly formed watershed district in the development of its general plan.

FY 2010 Achievements

In FY 2010, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2011 Activities

In FY 2011, no funding for the program was appropriated.

FY 2012 Planned Activities

In FY 2012, no activity is anticipated.



State Conservation Commission

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The State Conservation Commission (SCC) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1937 to promote soil and water conservation. The SCC is governed by nine members consisting of an elected commissioner from each of the five conservation areas; two ex-officio members representing KSU Research and Extension; and two appointed members representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The agency is administered by an executive director appointed by the commissioners.

The SCC has the responsibility to administer the Conservation Districts Law (K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq), the Watershed District Act (K.S.A. 24-1201 et seq.), and other statutes authorizing various programs. The agency budget is financed from the dedicated funding of the State Water Plan Special Revenue Fund, State General Fund, and fee funds.

The agency is structured as a single program agency, but operates several subprograms that tie both to the mission of the SCC and many stated goals of the State Water Plan. One of the goals of the SCC is to administer efficiently those subprograms that enhance and protect the state's natural resources. The agency pursues this goal by working with the 105 conservation districts and 88 organized watershed districts, along with other local, state and federal entities.

State Conservation Commission Members

Elected Members

Rodney Vorhees, Area V, Fredonia, Chairperson

John Wunder, Area IV, Valley Falls, Vice-Chairperson

Ted Nighswonger, Area I, Edmond

Andrew Larson, Jr., Area II, Garden City

Brad Shogren, Area III, Lindsborg



Five Elected SCC Commissioners

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Daniel L. Devlin, KSU, Research and Extension

Dr. Phil Barnes, KSU, Biological & Agricultural Engineering

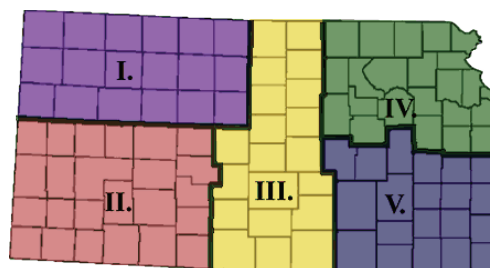
Appointed Members

Dave Barfield, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Eric Banks, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Executive Director

Greg A. Foley, State Conservation Commission



SCC Administrative Areas



Rock Creek Watershed District Board Members taking a break at an Operation and Maintenance Inspection of a Watershed Dam



Cheyenne County Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting

109 SW 9th St., Suite 500
Topeka, KS 66612-1215
Website: www.scc.ks.gov



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